



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phoenix District

Hassayampa Field Office

21605 North 7th Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona 85027

[www.blm.gov/az/](http://www.blm.gov/az/)

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In Reply Refer To:

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AZA-34334

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED NO. 7008 0150 0000 7738 6644

Environmental Protection Agency

Attention: Ms. Leah Butler

Mail Code: SFD82

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Ms. Butler:

This letter is to formally notify you that on June 11, 2009, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) posted on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) number AZ-210-2008-011. This EA is related to Mining Plan of Operations (MPO) AZA-34334, submitted by Minex, LLC (Minex), for a proposed mining operation on BLM-administered lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 3809.411(c), the BLM is soliciting public comments on the MPO through the NEPA document.

The site of the Proposed Action is the old Ambrosia Mill site, located along Eagle Eye Road, approximately 10 miles south of Aguila, in Maricopa County, Arizona. Minex plans to excavate and remove from the site approximately 150,000 tons of manganese mill tailings, over a 13-year period, for processing on private lands offsite. The tailings were originally placed onsite when the mill last operated in the 1950s and 1960s.

In April 2009, X-Ray Fluorescence sampling by the BLM found arsenic and manganese levels in the stockpiles onsite to be significantly above the Arizona non-residential Soil Remediation Levels and the BLM's Risk Management Criteria. Accordingly, the public would continue to be excluded from the site, through the use of an existing fence and warning signs or other appropriate means, until reclamation is complete.

The EA can be viewed by following the related link posted at the following web address:  
[http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/hassayampa\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/hassayampa_field_office.html)

All comments must be received, in writing, in our office by July 31, 2009. Comments on these documents may be made through the following four means (please do not send duplicates):

1. E-mail comments to: Michael\_Rice@blm.gov
2. Mail: To the address in the letterhead
3. Hand Delivery: At the address in the letterhead  
(Business Hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.)
4. Facsimile: Fax comments to 623-580-5580

Please reference AZA-34334 EA, AZ-210-2008-011 EA, or Minex Aguila Project EA in your comments. Consideration will be given to those comments that are received, and responses will be prepared as warranted. Contact Geologist Mike Rice, at 623-580-5646, with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St Cohn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Cohn  
Field Manager